



U.S. Department of Justice

*United States Attorney
Eastern District of Virginia*

*World Trade Center 757/441-6331
Suite 8000, 101 West Main Street
Norfolk, Va. 23510*

NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release
Tuesday, January 31, 2006
Norfolk, Virginia

For further information contact
Deanna Warren (757) 441-6331

Paul J. McNulty, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Virginia, announced today that the following individuals were arrested today on a criminal complaint charging them with conspiring to produce false identification documents:

- Teshara Leann Sykes, age 21, of Norfolk
- Tonita Sharmaine Sykes, age 23, of Norfolk
- Jamille Candice Lowther, age 29, of Hampton
- Andy Earl Brathwaite, also known as "Trini," age 27, here illegally from Trinidad
- Felix Reyes, age 45, here illegally from Trinidad

The Sykeses and Lowther were employees of the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles (DMV). At various times they worked at the Military Circle or Widgeon Road DMV branches in Norfolk. According to the criminal complaint, a joint investigation conducted by the FBI and the Virginia DMV revealed that the Sykeses and Lowther were engaged in a scheme to illegally issue Virginia driver's licenses. Brathwaite and Reyes facilitated the purchase of the illegal licenses by finding buyers and negotiating the fees to be paid by the purchasers.

Teshara L. Sykes and Jamille C. Lowther were arrested today without incident at the DMV Office at 850 Widgeon Road; Tonita S. Sykes was arrested today without incident at the DMV Office at 5745 Poplar Hall Drive; Andy E. Brathwaite was already in Norfolk Police custody on an unrelated charge; and Felix Reyes was arrested today without incident in New York City.

Joining in this announcement is Cassandra M. Chandler, Special Agent in Charge of the Federal Bureau of Investigation Norfolk Field Office. Mrs. Chandler stated, "This is an important investigation because the production and use of false identities can facilitate the commission of more serious crimes which endanger or defraud the public. The FBI, along with the Virginia Department of Motor Vehicles, is committed to pursuing anyone involved in such schemes. I welcome the public's assistance."

This investigation is on-going, and agents are continuing to search for other individuals involved in this scheme. Persons with information about this case are asked to call Special Agent Edward Renda of the FBI Norfolk Field Office at 757-455-0100. Assistant United States Attorney Michael C. Moore is prosecuting this case.

(It should be noted that defendants are considered innocent until proven guilty.)

###

